Space Race Presentation Script

Megan: Good Morning viewers. I’m Jane Woodman and it’s the 24th July 2000. Our Key topic today is “The Space Race” and we are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the ending of the Space Race. Kenny Jackson has the full details, over to you Kenny.

Rosie: Thanks Jane. Okay viewers I am currently in Melbourne joined by no other than the famous American astronauts Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon as well as Sally Ride, the first woman to be in space. I am also joined by the famous Russian astronaut Major Yuri Gagarin, the first human in outer space, as well as the Russian President Vladimir Putin. Welcome guests and thankyou for coming.

Christine, Ruby, Rebekah, Nairi: (at different times) Thanks Kenny.

Rosie: Although I know about the space race, I want to get a first hand look into the action.

So, What was this race all about and why did you do it?

Ruby: Oh, well the Space Race was a race to see who could invent the latest technology so that humans could travel to Space.

Rebekah: But, it’s not just a race about technology; it was for the future of mankind. Without the Race, we, today, would have no knowledge of that vast universe out there.

Nairi: Yes, I agree. The Space Race was a big part of mankind.

Rosie: Wow, so who actually competed in the race?

Christine: The main countries that competed were the USA and USSR, also known as America and Russia.

Rosie: I see. Who were the significant people involved in the Space Race?

Rebekah: Well from MY understanding the significant people were Major Yuri Gagarin, the President of Russia, which is I, Sergey Korolvov, Vladimir Chelomev, Vasily Mishin, Vladimirnova….

Nairi: Excuse me, Mr. President of Russia, but it seems that you’re forgetting the great Americans who helped in this great Space mystery. People such as Sally Rides, first American woman in space, me, the first man on the moon? What about James E Webbs? Robert R Gilruth? And don’t forget the seven proud American civilians who died in the Challenger for our cause?

Ruby: I think it is fair to say that BOTH countries had an equal amount of significant people who helped in the Space Race.

Christine: Yes, please stop this argument, gentlemen. Let me remind you that the Space Race is over?

Rosie: (awkward chuckle) Yes…I see that the Space Race spirit is still with you all! Anyway, why do you think it was THOSE to countries that competed? Is there any reason?

Christine: Well, the Space Race kind of falls off the Cold War, which started almost immediately after WW2 finished. Also, in the Cold War, Russia and the USA were also going head to head to show which style of government was best. I think that’s why Russia went head to head with us in the Space Race too.

Ruby: It was also because after the Cold War, Russia and America were the most powerful nations. So, for half a century they competed to win.

Rosie: Wow, so interesting! When and where did the race start and finish?

Nairi: The Race started in 1957 and ended in 1975, I can’t quite remember the date though…

Rebekah: The race started on the 4th of 1957 and ended on 24th of July, 1975. Sheesh, these Americans…

Ruby and Christine: GENTLEMEN!!

Rosie: Okay, thanks Sally and Yuri. Anyway, what was built in order for you to, you know lift off?

Rebekah: We Russians created all sorts of Space Shuttles including the Vostoks and Voskhods. They were a success! Our Yuri flew in the Vostok 1 as the first man in Space! He orbited Earth once, and stayed in Space for a full 108 minutes!

Ruby: Oh yes, I remember the Vostoks and Voskhods! There were 7 of them I think. Oh and you remember the Sputnik? The first artificial satellite to be launched into Space!

Nairi: Yes, well, in America, we created the famous Apollos. The Apollo 11 was the one that successfully landed me on the moon. And you can’t forget our Geminis, the Saturn V, the Challenger, and the Discovery.

Christine: Oh yes, the Challenger! That was the one where 7 American civilians lost their lives for the Space cause. The Challenger exploded only 73 seconds after take-off… Nobody survived…such a fatal event. It took billions of dollars trying to investigate what went wrong.

Rosie: Billions? Wow! Don’t mind me asking but was a lot of money spent?

Nairi: A lot of money was spent. In America, I think they spent 1 billion dollars on the research of why the Challenger blew up, and another 25 billion dollars on the Apollos. And they spent another 18 billion dollars on the other Space shuttles.

Rebekah: Yes, it was the same for Russia. Lots and lots of money. So much money I do not even remember how much.

Rosie: WOW!! Mr Armstrong, I’ve heard that the Apollo’s cost a lot of money. How many were there?

Nairi: There were 17 Apollos in all. The first one orbited the Earth, number 11 landed me on the moon and I think number 13 ran out of oxygen, but the astronauts survived! And Apollo 8 was a successful splash and recovery shuttle.

Rosie: Wow with all of those successful shuttles, there must have been unsuccessful trials too. How many people were lost in the unsuccessful ones?

Christine: I think for America, the most unsuccessful one was the Challenger. Everything was ready, and then, 73 seconds later, it just exploded. The brave, courageous people in there all died for a good cause. Every one of them except one had children. Millions of people across America saw the explosion. On the recorded tape, you could hear them panicking.

Ruby: We were watching that in Russia too. I remember they tried to stop NASA forever, but many people disagreed, because then, those people would have died in vain. I also remember they were all civilians. There was one teacher, and I saw on TV, her students crying over her. It was heart breaking.

Rebekah: Yes, such a tragedy. All in all, I think around 150 people died. We are not sure because some deaths went unrecorded.

Rosie: So unfortunate. However, with the race finally over for good, what was the result?

Rebekah: Russia won. We thrashed America for good.

Ruby: Well, I think everyone won. Yes, Russia won the Space Race, but due to the Space Race, many household items that we use today in everyday life originated from the research from the Space Race.

Nairi: Yes, things like canned food and sterilized foods came from the Space Race research.

Christine: And don’t forget, there were a lot of kitchen appliances that came from the Space Race too. Also, many American schools now have their own Planetariums from the Space Race.

Rosie: Okay guys, this is my last question for you all. Now that the race is over, how did it change the world?

(silence for 3 seconds)

Rebekah: It changed the world in so many ways. It increased man’s knowledge of space and our other surroundings.

Nairi: It will teach our future generations about our vast surroundings. The Space Race, I hope, will influence children to have more interest in Space.

Ruby: There were also things like digital clocks, transportation systems, communication systems and satellites that came out of the Space Race.

Rosie: Thankyou for your time, it’s been a pleasure interviewing you all. I’m sure our viewers learnt a lot more about the Space Race today. Back to you Jane.

Megan: Thanks Kenny! After the break, we have more news on Aliens, true or false? Don’t change the channel! Currently 8:40 am on Channel 24.

(Closing music)